LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 133
LAFAYETTE, CALIF. 94549

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President: Lee Pfautch | Editor: Angela Broadhead

A MERIENDA AT THE MORAGA ADOBE ********** SATURDAY, SEPT. 8 **********

The Moraga Historical Society and Mr. and Mrs. Don Manuel, owners of the Moraga Adobe, invite you to a Merienda on Sat. Sept. 8. A tour of the grounds and of the 130-year old restored adobe, plus swimming and picnicing are all part of this special fall program.

Parking of cars begins at 11 A.M. and everyone is urged to arrive by 12 Noon for the festivities. If you wish to tour the old Moraga Adobe, named after the area's first permanent settler, Don Joaquin Moraga, do take time to register for one of the tours before your lunch. Please bring your own picnic lunch--coffee and cold drinks will be provided.

Tours of the Adobe led by our hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Manuel, begin at 1 P.M. You may also tour the grounds of the adobe to see the natural spring which at one time provided 350 gallons of water an hour for Moraga. A caretaker's quarters, barns, horses and, of course, a spectacular view of the valley are all part of this famous rancho.

The Merienda is open ONLY to members of the Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda Historical Societies and to their families. New memberships, however, will be accepted on Sept. 8 and new members are welcome at the Merienda.

Directions: Take Moraga Way to Camino Moraga. Proceed to 24 Adobe Lane, Orinda, where the Merienda will be in progress until 4 P.M.

SPECIAL TOUR OF THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE, OAKLAND ********** SUN. SEPT. 16 **********

If you've been reading about what's happening at the Paramount Theatre, and we know you have, here's an opportunity to tour the theatre one week before it will be open to the general public. Through arrangements made by Walter Costa, Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda Historical Groups and their families may tour the newly remodeled and refurbished theatre on Sunday, Sept. 16, from 2-4 P.M. Ample parking is available at the BART parking lot near the Paramount.

"ALL ABOARD" THEME FOR HISTORICAL EXHIBIT DURING SUMMER MONTHS

A turn-of-the-century railroad ticket office, complete with pot belly stove and wooden bench is the focal point of the newest historical display in the LandMarks Room at the Lafayette Federal Savings and Loan located at 3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Titled "All Aboard!", the new exhibit features mementos of local railroad history and covers the period from steam engine to BART. The display is the first designed by the Historical Society's new exhibit chairman, Mrs. Herbert Breckling.

While the main window is a reproduction of a typical small town train station office, the adjoining display windows feature old timetables, photos, signs and other reminders of the railroad era. These include photos of the Sacramento Northern trains, which carried early commuters from Lafayette to Oakland and over into Solano County; the California-Nevada line which was ambitiously promoted but got no further than Bryant's Corners (Orinda), and local train stations and stops.

Among the contributors to the display are Louis L. Stein, Jr., noted railroad buff and collector of Contra Costa memorabilia; Karl Rodebaugh of Lafayette who was a railroad employee; Grant's Train Store in Lafayette. Others who contributed and assisted Mrs. Breckling with the exhibit were James Bailey, Paul Broadhead, J.W. Crawford, Brother Dennis of St. Mary's College, Mrs. Gordon Frazell, Mrs. Victor Lattanner, Robert H. Murphy and James Merryman.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Aspey
Shirlee Boothe
Mr. and Mrs. James Davy
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fillinger
Mr. and Mrs. Ned Flanders
Mr. and Mrs. Don Ford
Mr. and Mrs. William Hoisington
Mr. and Mrs. J. Richard Johnston
Mr. and Mrs. James Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nimmo
Mr. and Mrs. Austin Sperry
Mrs. F. Spurier
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Van Overveen

GIFTS TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bicycle backpack -- donated by the Fred Klinkners. This child-sized canvas bicycle backpack was part of the "School Bells and Ink Wells" exhibit in the LandMarks Room

Photographs of the Old Ellis Place on Upper Happy Valley Road -- donated by Mrs. R. Amidon. Built before 1900, these photos of the house, barn and related farm buildings show the area when the community of Lafayette was largely devoted to ranching and agriculture.

Old train pictures from the collection of Mr. L.L. Stein, Jr.

The Historical Society thanks all of these contributors for their donations. Later, the photos may be seen in the historical file cabinet at the Lafayette Library. The bicycle backpack will be stored for future display in our storage cabinet at Acalanes Pharmacy, where space has been generously provided for us by Mr. Bill Eames.

HISTORICAL BOOTH AT THE CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE IN JULY

For the third year, The Society participated in the annual community sponsored event of the Concours d'Elegance. For historical buffs there was a collection of photographs recently acquired by the Society and arranged for display by Sarah Gregory for this special event.

Also on sale at the booth was the latest edition of picture Post Cards of early Lafayette scenes. Included in this series is a photo of the community swimming hole (1925) made when Pat Medau dammed the creek back of what is now the Park Theatre. For train buffs there is a photo of the Sacramento Northern at the station near Birdhaven. These post cards may still be purchased at the Lafayette Federal Savings and Loan Ass'n and at the Lafayette Camera Shop in Plaza Center. Prices are .10 each, three for .25 and the set of ten for .75.

Our sincere thanks to Inez Batz, Ellie Fisher, Sarah Gregory, Jim Lattanner, Mark Lattanner, Joan Merryman, Dolly Pfautch, Christine Schreiber and Betsy Willcuts who contributed material or who worked at the booth during the festive Concours.

********** NEW IDEAS ********** WHAT'S AHEAD --- NEXT ISSUE ****** NEW IDEAS **********

LAST YEAR'S EXPERIMENT with joint meetings between our Society and the Historical groups in Moraga and Orinda has proved so successful that the Board of Directors of each association has voted to continue and expand the idea for another year.

The Directors of each group have agreed to stretch that program from 3 to 6 meetings plus a holiday party and possibly a joint spring Romeria for the 1973-1974 season.

The schedule will be: September, Moraga (see story elsewhere in this issue on the Merienda); October, Lafayette; November, Orinda; December, Christmas Party; January, Moraga; February, Lafayette; and March, Orinda. In April each group will hold its own meeting, including annual business meeting and/or potluck or other event. It's hoped that a 3-Society Romeria or outing can be arranged in May, and June will be the time for annual meetings where required by individual Society by-laws.

To avoid duplication of effort and to trim our mailing costs, we will start a combined newsletter beginning next month. To be called "Los Ranchos", the new publication will contain news of the upcoming meeting, a report of the previous meeting, plus a complete report of news from each individual Society.

This newsletter will be mailed from a single address (so we can take advantage of the lower 4th class mail rate), and will have a single co-ordinator to handle printing, assembling and mailing of the entire newsletter.

The name "Los Ranchos" was selected by the committee on joint activities to reflect the Spanish heritage common to each of our communities. Contained within the area which our three Societies cover were these original Rancho grants: San Ramon I, given to Raphael de Pacheco; Romero Sobrante, granted to Inocencio and Jose Romero; Laguna de los Palos Colorados, to Jose Joaquin Moraga and Juan Bernal; El Sobrante to Jose and Victor Castro; Boca de la Canada del Pinole, to Maria Manuela Valencia; and Acalanes to Candelario Valencia, plus other Sobrantes.

With a wider choice of speakers and program ideas than ever before, we look forward to a rewarding and exciting year. Our Board is most anxious to have your comments and suggestions on the programs and the newsletter.

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